REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

By the foregoing amendments, original claims 1-34 have been canceled and new claims 35-58 have been added.

35 U.S.C. §101:

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, the claims have been carefully drafted to include statutory subject matter. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues continue to exist under 35 U.S.C. §101, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that such issues can be promptly resolved.

Art Rejections:

All of the original claims had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,827,279, hereinafter *Teraura*.

The new claims include six independent claims.

Claims 35, 43, and 51, each includes language about determining whether a document will be transported or not in response to judging that the document paper is not electronically tagged printed matter. They further include subject matter relating to reading image data from the electronic tag of the untransported document when the judging unit judges that the document is electronically tagged printed matter.

Applicants submit that claims 35, 43, and 51 are not taught or suggested by *Teraura*. Specifically, with respect to column 7, lines 3-50, *Teraura* teaches only selecting kinds of paper in response to judging that the received data from a personal computer includes RFID data to be written on an RFID tag. See, in particular, column 7, lines 5-17, and steps A1 and A2 in Figure 6. *Teraura* does not teach determining whether a document will be transported or not in response to judging whether the document is electronically tagged printed matter.

Teraura teaches only receiving image data from a personal computer, and does teach reading out from the electronic tag of an <u>un</u>transported document. *Teraura* teaches only reading out data from the electronic tag of a document after starting the transportation of the document. See column 7, line 55 through column 8, line 6. *Teraura* does not teach determining whether a document will be transported or not in response to judging that the document is not electronically tagged printed matter, and reading out image data from the electronic tag of the untransported document. At column 12, lines 30-65, *Teraura* teaches only reading out data from the electronic tag of a document after starting the transportation of the document, as shown in C1 and C2 of Figure 13.

Accordingly, claims 35, 43, and 51, and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over *Teraura*.

Claims 38, 46, and 54 include subject matter relating to reading out modifiable attribute information among attribute information of the electronically tagged printed matter and modifying the modifiable attribute information.

In contrast to the claims 38, 46, and 54 in the present application, *Teraura* does not teach or suggest the modifiable attribute information. The permission data

in *Teraura* refers to the predetermined and fixed ID numbers provided to the persons who are permitted to copy the sheet of document paper. See column 8, lines 44-50. The operation circuit 34 of *Teraura* inputs the operator's ID used to be compared with the permission data. However, the operation circuit 34 does not modify the permission data. If the inputted ID number disagrees with any ID numbers of copying permitted people, the copying operation is interrupted and processing ends. See column 8, lines 52-55. If the inputted ID number agrees with any of the ID numbers of copying permitted people, the operator is permitted to copy the sheet of document paper 61.

In *Teraura*, if the operator is permitted to copy the sheet of paper 61 (yes in step B9), the third reader-writer 17 stores not only the data (i.e., permission data) read from the RFID tag 14 on the document paper 61, but also the ID number inputted by the operation circuit 34 in the RFID tag 14 of the printing paper 13, while it is printing. In addition, the inputted ID number of the operator is stored in the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of the document paper 61 after the printing process. See column 9, lines 7-13. However, the inputted ID number stored in the printing paper 13, or the inputted ID number stored in the document paper 61 after the printing process, does not teach or suggest the modifiable attribute information which can specify the mode of printing, as claimed in the present application.

In *Teraura's* disclosure, the printing unit 11 cannot print based on the inputted ID number because the inputted ID number is stored in the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of the printing paper 13, while the printing unit 11 is printing. In addition, the printing unit 11 cannot print based on the ID number of the operator, because the ID number of the operator is stored in the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of the document paper 61

after the printing process. Consequently, the inputted ID number of *Teraura* does not suggest the modifiable attribute information of the present invention.

The dependent claims are also patentable over *Teraura* at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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